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In his volumes there was something for every age and every taste. But in this variety, diverse as it was in motive and in interest, there was an essential and controlling unity of spirit. It was all inspired with the sweet and generous nature of the poet, his faith in man, his trust in God, his high purpose and principle, his allegiance to duty.

Modest, simple, kind, tender-hearted, beloved by all who knew him, famous throughout the world, he has left a memory in which there is nothing to regret, and which will forever be cherished by his country.

JOHN AMORY LOWELL.

JOHN AMORY LOWELL died, at his residence in Boston, on the 31st of October last, when he had almost completed the eighty-third year of his age, for he was born on the 11th of November, 1798. A few years of his boyhood — from 1803 to 1806 — were passed in Paris, where he was a spectator of some of the glorifications of the First Empire, especially on the occasion of the return from Austerlitz. He entered Harvard College in 1811, Messrs. Sparks, Parsons, and Palfrey being among his classmates, and after graduation he entered a mercantile house. He was elected into this Academy on the 10th of November, 1841, at the same time with two other Fellows assigned to the botanical section. One was William Oakes, of Ipswich, who died seven years afterward; to the other is assigned the duty of preparing this memorial. When the Fellows of the Academy were arranged in classes and sections, the pronounced tastes inherited from his father, and cultivated by his own studies, made it natural that he should belong to the small section of botany. But he might with equal propriety have been relegated to more than one section of the third class. For, notwithstanding his devotion to business affairs, his classical and linguistic knowledge were always well kept up, and his authority upon economical and financial questions was great.

The family has always had a marked representation in this Academy. To mention only the direct line, the subject of our notice was chosen into it very shortly after the death of his father, — the John Lowell who, after achieving distinction and a competency at the bar, retired from active practice at the age of thirty-four, to be known through his valuable writings as "The Norfolk Farmer," and as a principal promoter, if not the founder, of scientific agriculture and horticulture in New England. John Lowell — the father of John Amory Lowell — was elected into the Academy in the year 1804,

soon after the decease of his father, the Hon. John Lowell, first judge of the United States District Court of Massachusetts, under a commission from Washington. This office is now held by his great grandson, the eldest son of our deceased Associate, who has been a Fellow since the year 1877, thus continuing the line from the very foundation of the Academy, for Judge Lowell was one of the sixty-two members incorporated by the charter in 1780. In tracing the genealogy one step farther back, we come (as is almost universal in New England families of note), upon a clergyman, the Rev. John Lowell, of Newbury, a man of mark in his day.

Mr. Lowell was the fourth of his family to be a member of the Corporation of Harvard University, to which he gave a continuous and most valuable service of forty years. He was for more than fifty years one of the directors of the Suffolk Bank, which was chartered in his time, and which early established a very useful plan for the redemption of the currency of the New England banks in Boston. Not to mention other important public trusts, — as of the Athenæum, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, of the Agricultural Trustees, of the Provident Institution for Savings, to all of which he rendered assiduous and wise service, — nor to refer here to the very important part which he has taken for a lifetime in the development of the manufacturing interests of Massachusetts, especially as prosecuted in the town which was named in commemoration of similar services by his cousin, — we proceed to speak of that most important “corporation sole” founded by that cousin, the Lowell Institute. This trust was specifically consigned to our late Associate and to such successor as he should appoint, — with preference to the family and the name of Lowell, — subject to no other than a formal visitatorial control, mainly for auditorship. And “to him, single and alone, it fell to shape the whole policy and take the whole direction of this great educational foundation,” the history of which for almost half a century has justly been said to be a “record of his own intellectual breadth and scope, as well as of his large administrative capacity.” We all know with what good judgment, with what liberality, and with what success this peculiar trust has been administered, and how on the one hand a series of most distinguished men have been attracted into its service, while on the other the efforts of younger men have been stimulated and rewarded at the period when such encouragement was most important to them. Suffice it to mention the names of Lyell and Agassiz, — the former early and also a second time brought from England for courses of lectures at the Lowell Institute, the latter

a permanent acquisition to us and to our country. Through Mr. Lowell's discernment, moreover, the first encouragement to devote his life to scientific pursuits was afforded to Jeffries Wyman, by the offer of the curatorship of the Institute as well as of a lectureship. The intellectual and the financial interests of this trust have equally prospered in Mr. Lowell's hands; for while the number of lecture-courses has been doubled, and various subsidiary lines of instruction have been developed, the principal of the fund has been increased to thrice its original amount.

Mr. Lowell's fondness for botany developed shortly after he left college, and was incited by the botanical intercourse between his father and the late Dr. Francis Boott, with whom he maintained a lifelong friendship. But it was only in about the year 1844 or 1845 that he began the formation of an herbarium and botanical library; and this was actively prosecuted for several years, in evident expectation of comparative leisure which he could devote to scientific studies. He subscribed liberally to the botanical explorations in our newly-acquired or newly-opened Western Territories; and when in Europe, in 1850 and 1851, he added largely to his store of rare and costly botanical books. But just when he was ready to use the choice materials and appliances which had been brought together, the financial crisis of 1857 remanded him to business. The grave duties and responsibilities which he resumed he carried up nearly to the age of fourscore, — carried as it were with the vigor of early manhood and the cheerful ease that attends "a real love of work for the work's own sake." And when it became evident that the comparatively unbroken attention requisite for serious botanical study was not to be secured, and as soon as a building was prepared for their reception, he presented all his botanical books which were needed to the herbarium of Harvard University; and the remainder, with his herbarium, to the Boston Society of Natural History, — not giving up the while his studious habits, but transferring his attention back to the Latin and the French classics, and in a certain degree to German and Italian literature.

As his father was one of the leading promoters of the establishment of the Botanic Garden of Harvard University, Mr. Lowell was also its most efficient supporter through its years of sorest need; and, in memory of his father, he bequeathed to it the sum of \$20,000 in order to make his annual subvention perpetual. He made a legacy of equal amount to the general Library of the University, which he along with his father and grandfather had served in a most respon-

sible trust for seventy years. He never sought or accepted any office in city or State; but few men were more sought for responsible trusts, or ever served their day and generation more devotedly, disinterestedly, and wisely. He seemed always to have a firm confidence in his own judgment, and that confidence appears not to have been misplaced.

THEOPHILUS PARSONS.

THEOPHILUS PARSONS was born in Newburyport on May 17, 1797, and died in Cambridge on Jan. 26, 1882. His father was the celebrated Chief Justice of the same name. His mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Greenleaf, was the daughter of Judge Benjamin Greenleaf, of Newburyport, and the granddaughter of Dr. Charles Chauncy, of Boston, and through the latter she was lineally descended from Dr. Charles Chauncy, the second President of Harvard College. When he was three years old his father removed from Newburyport to Boston, where he continued to reside for thirteen years and until his death. The son's boyhood, therefore, was spent in Boston, and his earliest recollections must have been of that place. During his boyhood his father procured a Mr. Elisha Clap to come to Boston and open a private school, and at this school the son was fitted for College. At the age of fourteen — namely, in 1811 — he entered Harvard College. His father was then Fellow of the College, and Dr. Kirkland, his father's former pastor and most intimate and valued friend, was President. With the latter the son went to live upon entering College, and he continued to live with him during his entire College course. His class at the time of its graduation numbered sixty-six, and among his classmates were George Eustis, late Chief Justice of Louisiana, Convers Francis, Thaddeus W. Harris, John Jeffries, John A. Lowell, John G. Palfrey, and Jared Sparks. All of these distinguished men he survived, the last of them, John G. Palfrey, having died on April 26, 1881, and he was himself survived by only two of his sixty-five class-mates.

Immediately upon graduating, he entered the office of William Prescott, the son of the hero of Bunker Hill and the father of the historian, and then the acknowledged leader of the Suffolk Bar, and began the study of law. In 1818 he was admitted to the Bar; in 1822 he removed to Taunton, and there engaged in the practice of his profession; in 1828 he returned to Boston, and there continued the practice of his profession for the next twenty years. In the summer